

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated July 11, 2007, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on October 11, 2007. Claims 3-20 are pending in the application. By way of this reply, Applicants are amending claims 3, 11, 15, and 18, canceling claims 1 and 2, and adding claims 21 and 22.

35 U.S.C. § 101 Rejections

Claims 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. In response, Applicant is amending these claims such that they are directed to claim a computer readable medium that stores instructions for causing a network interface to perform processing steps to handle a burst of packets. The amended claims now recite tangible, and therefore, patentable subject matter as defined by 35 U.S.C. § 101.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Claims 3-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robotham (U.S. 6,775,293) in view of Muller (U.S. 6,483,804).

Claims 3 and 15, as amended, recite the steps of generating an ART index for an address resolution table entry that stores a media access control (MAC) address and MAC layer attributes and including the ART index in the connection table entry. The ART index is shown in Figure 6 and described in paragraphs [0044] and [0045] of the present application. An entry in the address resolution table (ART) is shown in Figure 8.

Robotham does not teach or suggest network interface software for building the connection table entry. Therefore, the Examiner relies on Muller for the teaching of network interface software for building the connection table entry. Specifically, Muller teaches a flow database manager that generates a flow key that is stored in a flow database. In column 20, lines 53-55, Muller teaches that the flow key is generated by "concatenating the IP source and destination addresses and the TCP source and destination ports." However, Muller does not teach or suggest that the flow key is generated for an address resolution table entry that stores a MAC address and MAC layer attributes, as recited in amended claims 3 and 15. Robotham fails to teach or suggest an address resolution table entry and storing an ART index in the connection table. Therefore, amended claims 3 and 15 and their dependent claims, claims 4-10, new claims 21 and 22, and claims 16-17, respectively, are patentable over the combination of Robotham and Muller.

Claim 11, as amended, recites means for generating an ART index for an address resolution table entry that stores a media access control (MAC) address and MAC layer attributes and including the ART index in the connection table entry. Again, as set forth above, neither Robotham nor Muller teaches or discloses these features. Therefore, claim 11 and its dependent claims, claims 12-14, are patentable over the combination of Robotham and Muller.

Claim 18, as amended, recites a software portion of the network interface that is configured to generate an ART index for an address resolution table entry that stores a media access control (MAC) address and MAC layer attributes and include the ART index in the connection table entry. Again, as set forth above, neither Robotham nor Muller teaches or discloses these features. Therefore, claim 18 and its dependent claims, claims 19-20, are patentable over the combination of Robotham and Muller.

New claim 21 recites the limitation of computing the ART index by hashing the MAC address, as described in paragraph [0084] of the present application. None of the cited references teach or suggest this feature. Therefore, claim 21 is patentable over the cited references. New claims 22 recites the limitation computing a connection table index for the connection table entry based on a local address corresponding a device that is coupled to the network interface circuitry through a local network of a gateway. Computation of the connection table index is described in paragraph [0096] of the present application. None of the cited references teach or suggest this feature. Therefore, claim 21 is patentable over the cited references.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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